**Ms. Pichardo Global History and Geography**

**Literacy Strategies Topic: Current Events**

**Taking a Stand on Controversial Issues**

* Students will be able to take a stand on one side of an issue or another.
* Students will be able to develop their discussion skills,
* Students will be able to find a safe place to disagree respectfully.
* Students will be able to formulate and articulate their opinion on a particular issue
* Students will be able to develop their critical thinking skills

**Reading Strategy:** Barometer/Spectrum

Activity Description: There will be a tape on the floor long enough for all students to find a place on the line. This line will represent a barometer of feelings on an issue. Students to the left will be against the particular issue and those to the right will be for the issue. The further they stand toward the end, the stronger their feelings about their positions on the issue or topic. The middle is unsure or neutral.

**Class Options:**

* Whole group Discussion
* Students of opposing opinions should be paired. Students should try to convince their partner to change their perspective.

**Current Event Issues:**

Death Penalty: There should be a death penalty in NYS

Same Sex Marriage: Marriage should be a union between men and women

Standardized Testing in Education: Standardized tests are valuable indicators of student ability and school performance.

**More possible topics:**

Abortion Rights

Adoption

Affirmative Action

Global Warming

Prayer in Public Schools

Immigration

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